

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT CERI GOVERNING BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 26-27

REF (A) AGENDA, CERI/DC/A/(73)2

(B) SUEOCD 25377

(C) PROGRESS REPORT CERI/DC(73)13

DEPT PASS HEW/NIE FOR GLENNAN; HEW/OE FOR LEESSTMA;
LABOR FOR STEWART

1. SUMMARY: GOVERNING BOARD DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON THE DIRECTION THE CERI PROGRAM MIGHT TAKE IN 1974 AND BEYOND. NOTEWORTHY WAS INSISTENCE BY MEMBERS THAT WORK BE MORE CLOSELY RELATED TO NATIONAL NEEDS AND ESPECIALLY TO LABOR MARKET REQUIREMENTS. CERI DIRECTOR SAID EMPHASIS IN 1974 WOULD BE ON SOCIAL CONTEXT OF EDUCATION INCLUDING LABOR MARKET IMPLICATIONS. HE SAID ENTIRE OECD EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM INCLUDING CERI WOULD BE REASSESSED NEXT YEAR BY THE JOINT PROGRAMMING GROUP (JPG) OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND CERI. HE INVITED BG MEMBERS TO MAKE NATIONAL PRIORITIES KNOWN TO SECRETARIAT ASAP IN ORDER TO FACILITATE A MEETING EARLY NEXT YEAR. NEXT GB MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED APRIL 22-23. GB DISCUSSION OF DECENTRALIZED UNCLASSIFIED

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PROJECTS (ITEM 8, REF A) WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY;
HIGHLIGHTS OF OTHER AGENDA POINTS FOLLOW.
ACTION REQUESTED: JPG MEETING COULD HAVE IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ON DIRECTION OF FUTURE OECD WORK IN EDUCATION

FIELD (SEE PARA2, BELOW). MISSION SEES OPPORTUNITY TO
EMPHASIZE US PRIORITIES IN JPG FORUM AND REQUESTS
APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS BY FIRST WEEK IN JANUARY
END SUMMARY

2. PROGRESS REPORT (REF A, ITEM 3) - HIGHLIGHT OF GENERAL
DISCUSSION OF CERI PROGRESS WAS GASS' REMARKS ON FUTURE
PROGRAM PRIORITIES AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS. GASS SAID
STRONG EMPHASIS WOULD BE PUT ON RECURRENT EDUCATION AND
NEW FUNCTIONS OF SCHOOL IN PROGRAM AREAS (REF C). HE
NOTED "HORIZONTAL" CONNECTION WITH THE MANPOWER AND SOCIAL
AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE WORK ON SOCIAL INDICATORS AND WITH
SECGEN'S AD HOC GROUP ON EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS
(REF B). HE ALSO SAID JPG WOULD REVIEW ALL EDUCATION
ACTIVITIES INCLUDING CERI AND DECENTRALIZED PROJECTS EARLY
NEXT YEAR (COMMENT: MAJOR PURPOSE OF JPG IS TO PREVENT
DUPLICATION BETWEEN PROGRAMS OF CERI AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE,
BUT JANUARY OR FEBRUARY TIMING AND FACT THAT FPG MEMBERS
TEND TO LEAD DISCUSSION IN THEIR PARENT GROUPS SUGGEST
THAT ANY CONSENSUS IN JPG COULD INFLUENCE GB MEETING IN
APRIL, JUNE REPORT OF SECGEN'S AD HOC GROUP ON EDUCATION/
EMPLOYMENT AND FINAL JULY DRAFT OF SECGEN'S PROGRAM
AND BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 1975). IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS
TO SHAPE CERI PROGRAM TO MEET NATIONAL NEEDS (UK, CANADA,
SWEDEN) GASS WELCOMED NATIONAL STATEMENTS ON PRIORITIES
AND PROMISED PAPER FOR NEXT GB MEETING ON NEW OPTIONS FOR
POSTS-1974 WORK PROGRAM SIMILAR TO ONE PREPARED FOR
DECEMBER MEETING OF EDCOMM (ED(73)25). ON PROGRAM AREA II,
GASS SAID NEED WAS TO MOVE OUT OF "ACTION WORK" AND INTO
POLICY AREAS. HE RESERVED COMMENT ON PROGRAM AREA III
FOR NEXT MEETING.

UK SAID IT WAS NOT ENGAGED IN REASSESSMENT OF CERI
PROGRAM, USING STANDARDS OF HOW CERI WORK MEETS IMMEDIATE
UK NEEDS AND DEGREE OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERABILITY IN
CERI PROJECTS. ALTHOUGH NO CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN DRAWN
YET, UK WAS LIKELY TO ADOPT "SELECTIVE APPROACH" TO CERI
AND MIGHT OPT OUT OF SOME CERI PROJECTS. GASS RESPONDED
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THAT ONLY LARGE COUNTRY WITH BROAD INTERNAL
ORGANIZATION COULD ATTEMPT A SELECTIVE APPROACH AND THAT
SELECTIVE APPROACH MIGHT UNNECESSARILY FOREGO BENEFITS OF
INOVATIVE EFFECTS OF CERI WORK; GASS WAS WILLING TO
CONSIDER UK NEEDS IN SAME WAY HE SAID SPECIAL NEEDS OF US,
FRG AND AUSTRALIA HAD BEEN CONSIDERED IN PAST. GASS
URGED MEMBERS TO BE MORE AGGRESSIVE IN COMMUNICATING
DESIRES, AND SAID THAT IN PAST BOTH CERI GB AND ECCOMM
HAD NOT PLAYED OPTIMAL ROLE IN SETTING PROGRAM PRIORITIES.
GASS SUGGESTED HE MIGHT POLL CERI MEMBERS ON THEIR VIEWS
OF PROGRAM PRIORITIES.

ON BUDGET GASS GLUMLY NOTED 1974 PROSPECT FOR ALL
OECD INCLUDING CERI WAS "ZERO GROWTH" AND CERI WAS ALREADY

UNDER FIRE IN BUDGET COMMITTEE. HE PRAISED CERI STAFF FOR HARD WORK THIS YEAR IN SPITE OF UNCERTAIN EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS FOR 1974.

3. CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (REF A, ITEM 4A). THE GOVERNING BOARD AGREED THAT PROVIDING IT WAS AMENDED, CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT HANDBOOK COULD BE PUBLISHED EARLY NEXT YEAR. CONSENSUS FAVORED STATEMENT OF VALUE ASSUMPTIONS UNDERLYING ALL PROPOSED CURRICULUM REFORMS AND RECOGNITION OF NEED FOR INVOLVEMENT OF TEACHERS, EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS, STUDENTS AND PARENTS IN DEVELOPMENT OF REFORM PROPOSALS. THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT ON THE FORM THIS INVOLVEMENT MIGHT TAKE. GB NOTED THAT SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE WORK WOULD FOCUS ON CURRICULUM CONTENT (AS DISTINGUISHED FROM PROCESS OF CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT) AND PROBLEMS OF 16 TO 19 AGE GROUP AND OF SCHOOL LEAVERS. FREQUENT THEME IN REMARKS WAS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CURRICULUM REFORMS AND NEEDS OF LABOR MARKET AND CAREER CONSIDERATIONS.

4. CURRICULUM TRANSFER (REF A, ITEM 4B) - GB REACTED NEGATIVELY TO CERI ROLE PROPOSED IN PARA 18 OF CERI/CD (73)15 AND PUT ITEM ON AGENDA OF NEXT MEETING. SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE PAPER ANALYZING VARIOUS FACTORS IN TRANSFER OF CURRICULA BETWEEN COUNTRIES AND ATTEMPT TO ANSWER QUESTION OF WHETHER POLICY GOVERNING SUCH TRANSFERS IS NECESSARY.

5. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (REF A, ITEM5) - THERE WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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GENERAL INTEREST IN FURTHER WORK BUT REASONS AND INTERESTS VARIED FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY. MAJORITY FAVORED FOCUS ON TRANSITION FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD TO PRIMARY EDUCATION; OTHER NOTABLE INTERESTS WERE DESIRE TO RELEASE PARENTS FOR WORK (SWEDEN) AND PROBLEM OF EDUCATION OF CHILDREN OF MIGRATORY WORKERS (SPAIN). JAPANESE INTEREST WAS MORE IMMEDIATE; GOJ NOW CONSIDERING INCLUSION OF SOME PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION IN COMPULSORY SYSTEM. SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS AT NEXT GB MEETING FOR FUTURE WORK WILL FOCUS ON TRANSITION PROBLEM, LABOR MARKET ASPECTS, PARENTAL INTEREST IN CHILD CARE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN.

6. INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FOR LEARNING SCIENCES (REF A), ITEM 6) - THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR THIS PROGRAM IN CERI 1974 BUDGET AND CONTINUATION DEPENDS ON WILLINGNESS OF INTERESTED MEMBER COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE SPECIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT. NEITHER ORAL PRESENTATION FOR SECRETARIAT'S PAPER WAS CLEAR. GB AGREED INTERESTED COUNTRIES (NETHERLANDS, ITALY, FRG, SWEDEN) MIGHT MEET BEFORE END OF YEAR TO CLARIFY FUTURE PROGRAM AND QUESTION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT. SWEDISH INTEREST IN MEETING SEEMED TO BE BASED MORE ON DESIRE TO

CLARIFY PROGRAM PROPOSALS THAN TO CONTRIBUTE MONEY. FRG
ENTHUSIASM MAY NOT EXTEND BEYOND THAT OF GB MEMBER (ROELOFFS).

7. EVALUATION (REF A, ITEM 7) - GB CRITICAL REACTION FOCUSSED
ON OVERLY THEORETICAL APPROACH BY SECRETARIAT AND ON
NEED FOR RELEVANCE TO PRESSING PROBLEMS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES.
SECRETARIAT ACCEPTED CRITICISM AND WILL PRESENT A NEW
PAPER CLARIFYING ISSUES AND PROPOSING CERI ROLE IN FACILITATING
EXCHANGE BETWEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES. US PARTICIPATION
IN THIS PROJECT WAS NOT RAISED.BROWN

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